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Brazil and Canada discuss scientific agricultural cooperation

On March 4, 2009, Reinhold Stephanes, Brazil's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, met with Yaprak Baltacioglu, Canada's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Canadian Ambassador, His Excellency Paul Hunt, to discuss subjects of shared agricultural interest. Science was on the Deputy Minister's agenda since she signed a scientific co-operation agreement with Mr. Silvio Crestana, President of EMBRAPA, a public-sector organization affiliated with Brazil's Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply. The purpose of the agreement is to promote employee exchanges and research projects. High priority fields are: access to genetic resources; the environment; cereals; soil micro organisms and rhizobia; livestock production; postharvest processing; food safety and quality; and traceability. EMBRAPA has already shown interest in sending two of its research scientists to AAFC laboratories on a one year work exchange.



Photo: Paul Hunt, Silvio Crestana, Yaprak Baltacioglu, and Reinhold Stephanes.

Contact: [Johanne Boisvert](#)

Netherlands & UK Study Governance Evaluation Models

From February 15 to 20, 2009, AAFC Assistant Deputy-Minister Dr. Marc Fortin visited public and private research organizations in the Netherlands and the UK to study governance evaluation models for agriculture and agri-food research. He was accompanied by Dr. Christiane Deslauriers, Director General, Science Policy and Planning, Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International Affairs, Mr. Diederik Beutener, Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy to the Netherlands, and Dr. Caroline Martin, Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy to the UK. They met with Son Excellency James Wright, High-Commissioner for Canada in UK.

Both the Netherlands and the UK, in order to enhance their efficiencies, have created research partnering models that include universities, public research and independent entities, for conducting fundamental to near-market research. Some of the research projects are completely supported by the private sector. The Ministries of Agriculture have transferred their research capacity to other research partners and have developed means to ensure that the national priorities and coordination among institutions are implemented for the benefit of their national economies.

The research governance analysis in these countries can provide useful information as Canada prepares to create new mechanisms supported by public and private industries.



Photo: Paul Barrows, Paul Hemnill and Simon Culler from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council with Yvon Martel Marc Fortin and Christiane DesLauriers in Swindon, UK.



Photo: Caroline Martin, James Wright, and Marc Fortin.

Contact: Yvon Martel



China's Yunnan Agri-Food Science Park Seeks Cooperation with Canada

On February 24, 2009, AAFC's Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, welcomed Mr. Yuesheng Yue, mayor of Qujing, along with a dozen delegates including members of Qujing's municipal government and university presidents from Yunnan Province to AAFC's Food Research and Development Centre in Saint-Hyacinthe. The City of Qujing, with the support of the Yunnan provincial government, has established an international agri-food

science park and is seeking partnerships with Canadian organizations for scientific and technological cooperation. The following day, the delegation visited the Soils and Crops Research Development Centre in Québec City as well as Laval University and some Canadian agri-food industries, before attending the Annual Conference of La Coop Fédérée, a large farmers coop in the Québec City region.

AAFC is already collaborating on potato research with the Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences. This visit is part of a major project coordinated by Constellation Monde Inc. (website: www.constellationmonde.com), a Montreal-based company under the direction of former Montreal mayor and director of the city's Botanical Gardens, Mr. Pierre Bourque, and Mr. Wen Qi, Executive Vice-President. The Minister Counsellor, Commercial Affairs, Embassy of China in Canada, Mr. Shan Jiang, participated in the partnering activities.



Photo: The Yunnan delegation at the AAFC Soil Research and Development Centre, Québec City

Contact: Shan He

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) managed by the Chief Scientist, International

Since being created in 2004, the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) has forged strategic links with foreign and intergovernmental organizations in the agriculture and agri-food sector in order to promote, coordinate and strengthen scientific cooperation as well as Canadian excellence, brand image and leadership. In order to raise the international profile of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), stimulate funding for research projects, and contribute to the expansion of knowledge, over 50 MOUs have been signed under the auspices of the ISCB with partners in the scientific, trade and academic fields. A list and summaries of these MOUs are now accessible on the ISCB Internet site at the following address:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1180127615605&lang=eng>

*The list will be updated approximately every three months.



Photo: Johanne Boisvert and Yvon Martel

Contact: Marilyn Miller



Environmental cooperation with Sri Lanka

In February 2009, Professor Harischandra Abeyagunawardena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, signed an agreement with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) establishing a framework for cooperation and exchanges in the fields of protection of water quality and the environment, metal accumulation in the soil, and the application of cattle manure. The agreement formalizes the cooperation that has existed for several years between AAFC Research Scientist Dr. XiYing Hao in Lethbridge and Professor Indraratne, Head of

the Soils Department of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Sri Lankan university. The scientists' research has contributed to understanding soil changes brought about by the long term application of animal manure.

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



A Spanish delegation visiting Guelph Food Research Centre

On February 6th, Elsayed Abdelaal, A/Research Manager at the Guelph Food Research Centre (GFRC), welcomed a Spanish delegation consisting of a representative from the Canadian Embassy in Spain, scientists and academics from the food technology area, representatives from the Spanish food sector, a journalist for a Madrid-based food technology magazine and a correspondent from EFE News. AAFC scientist Christopher Young led the visitors on a tour of the centre, and AAFC scientists, Humayoun Akhtar, Susan Tosh, Rong Cao and John Shi made presentations to the group.

The afternoon session began with brief presentations by two AAFC commercialization officers and the AAFC's new bean breeder, Ali Navabi. A roundtable discussion followed, with a focus on identifying potential opportunities for collaboration between Canada and Spain. The group then paid a visit to the Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC) where Gary Fread, GFTC president/CEO and John Michaelides, GFTC director, greeted them and provided an introduction and overview of the centre. A guided tour of the GFTC wrapped up the day.



Photo: Elsayed Abdelaal hosts a Spanish delegation at Guelph.

Contact: Elsayed Abdelaal

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